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ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 ARA-01 OASY-00 TEDE-00 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSO-00
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P 081639Z AUG 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7333

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004821

S/CT FOR AMBASSADOR WILCOX AND ARA/BSC ONLY

E.O. 12356: DECL: DECEMBER 31, 2015

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, AR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WILCOX'S MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3546

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

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SUMMARY

2. [REDACTED] TOLD AMBASSADOR
WILCOX [REDACTED] A COVERUP EXISTS IN THE THE AMIA
CASE TO PROTECT A CRIMINAL RING MADE UP OF BUENOS
AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE. HE ALLEGED THAT SUSPECT
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CARLOS TELLELDIN PROVIDED THE CAR USED IN THE BOMBING TO POLICE WHO THEN TRANSFERRED IT TO THE BOMBERS; BUT [REDACTED] NOT BELIEVE THE POLICE KNEW ABOUT THE PLANNED BOMBING. [REDACTED] BELIEVES HIZBALLAH CARRIED OUT THE BOMBING WITH IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND LOCAL ARAB COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE. HE CLAIMED THE GOA HAS COME TO A MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE IRANIANS: THE GOA WILL NOT DELVE INTO THE IRANIAN CONNECTION IN EXCHANGE FOR NO MORE TROUBLE FROM TEHERAN. [REDACTED]

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD THE ALLEGATIONS OF A COVERUP AND SUCH AN EXPLICIT ACCUSATION OF A DEAL WITH IRAN, WHICH, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ARE UNCORROBORATED. WE WILL FOLLOW UP [REDACTED] TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BASES FOR HIS CLAIMS. END SUMMARY

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3. AMBASSADOR PHILIP WILCOX JR., COORDINATOR FOR COUNTER TERRORISM, MET WITH ARGENTINE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ASSOCIATE, [REDACTED] S/CT OFFICER BARMON, AND EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER GETTINGER ALSO PARTICIPATED.

A POLICE CONNECTION IN THE AMIA CASE?

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5. [REDACTED] CONTINUED. WHEN HE PUBLICLY MENTIONED ALLEGED LINKS BETWEEN TWO POLICEMEN AND TELLELDIN, AN ARMED FORCES FRIEND TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS A DANGEROUS ISSUE AND ADVISED HIM TO TREAD CAREFULLY. [REDACTED] OWN BODYGUARD, A FEDERAL POLICEMAN, TOLD HIM TO BE WARY OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE. IN A MEETING ON AUGUST 1, [REDACTED] THE AMIA CASE, PRIVATELY TOLD [REDACTED] HE AGREED WITH THE ALLEGATIONS OF A PROVINCIAL POLICE LINK TO TELLELDIN AND A COVERUP. [REDACTED] THAT AT THE

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TIME OF TELLELDIN'S ARREST, THREE FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS SENT TO PICK HIM UP RADIOED FOR HELP, SAYING THAT THEY WERE SURROUNDED BY A SQUAD OF GUN-TOTING PROVINCIAL POLICE.

THE IRAN CONNECTION

6. [REDACTED] SPECULATED THAT THE BOMBING WAS CARRIED OUT BY HIZBALLAH WITH IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE LOCAL ARAB COMMUNITY. [REDACTED] GOVERNMENT WAS WELL AWARE OF THE IRANIN CONNECTION. IT HAD CHOSEN, HOWEVER, TO COME TOTERMS WITH TEHERAN, A MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE IRAIANS PROMISING NO MORE ATTACKS IN EXCHANGE FOR TH ARGENTINES AGREEING NOT TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGAION TO ITS SOURCE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HAD AS MUCH AS ADMITTED THIS TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004821

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HIM. HE SAID THAT [REDACTED] TOLD HIM THAT THE PAST HAS TO BE FORGOTTEN AND THAT CONFRONTING IRAN WAS DANGEROUS, AND COULD PROVOKE A THIRD ATTACK. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HAS IMPORTANT BUSINESS INTERESTS WITH IRAN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A FORMER GOA AMBASSADOR IN TEHERAN.

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AMBASSADOR WILCOX'S RESPONSE

9. (C) [REDACTED] ASKED FOR AMBASSADOR WILCOX'S REACTION TO HIS VIEWS. WILCOX SAID THAT HE HAD NO INDEPENDENT BASIS FOR JUDGING THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE. BUT HE SAID THAT EVIDENCE OF A [REDACTED] WILCOX ADDED

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HE SAID THAT

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[REDACTED]
AND SUSPECTED THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF THE BOMBING
LEFT ARGENTINA IMMEDIATELY. WILCOX SAID THAT VITAL
EVIDENCE MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE FIRST FEW HOURS
FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION. [REDACTED] ASKED WHETHER THE
ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI EMBASSY MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE
SUSPENSION OF GOA SALE OF HEAVY WATER TO IRAN IN 1991.
[REDACTED]

10. AMBASSADOR WILCOX TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD SPOKEN
TO [REDACTED] ON AUGUST 1. THEY HAD DISCUSSED
STRENGTHENING THE GOA'S CAPACITY TO INVESTIGATE AND
LEGAL REFORMS TO DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL
PROCESS. WILCOX [REDACTED] TO CONTINUE TO
PRESS PUBLICLY FOR A FULL AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION,
ADDING THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT COULD
TO ASSIST. [REDACTED] THAT HE VALUES CONTACT WITH
USG OFFICIALS. HE ADDED THAT THE ONLY THING THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY FEARS [REDACTED]
DISPLEASURE.

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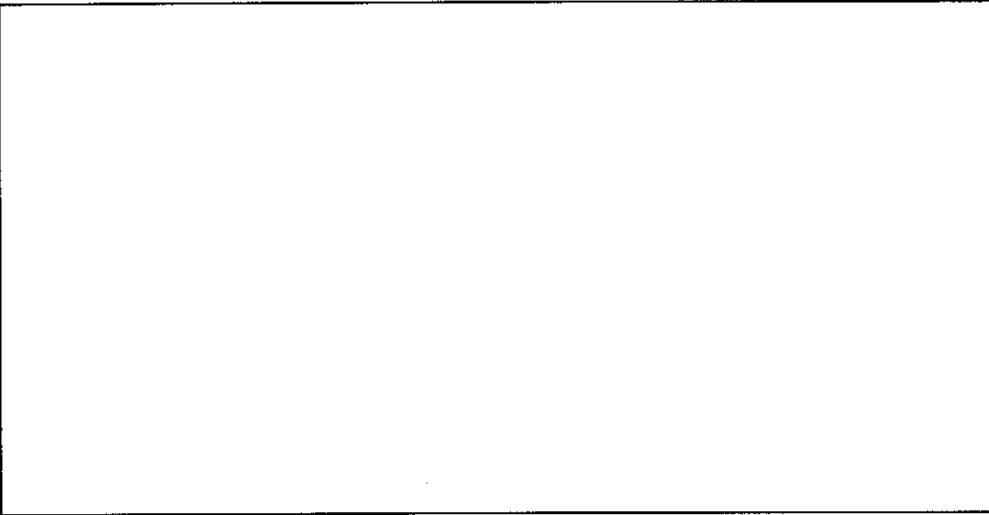
[REDACTED]
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